

REMARKS

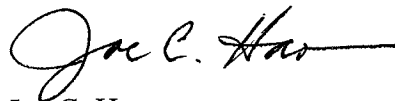
In the Office Communication mailed January 19, 2012, the Examiner alleges that the reply filed on November 17, 2011 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because it does not include a response to the rejection of claims 87 and 94 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. In an earnest effort to expedite prosecution but without acquiescing on the merits of the rejection, Applicants have amended claims 87 and 94 to clarify that the primer consists of 17 or 21 nucleotides. Support for this claim amendment is found, for example, in paragraph [0038] of the specification as published (*see*, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0265856 at page 4). As such, no new matter has been introduced. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, in its entirety.

Applicants note that the amendments to claims 43, 77, 79-80, 88-91, 95, 97, 99, and 100 made in the reply filed on November 17, 2011 have been incorporated into the claims. Furthermore, Applicants hereby incorporate by reference all of the remarks made in the previous reply.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,



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